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No. 28 Pirates Rally For 10-8 Win Over UMSL





Posted: Feb 26, 2011

SAVANNAH, Ga. - The No. 28-ranked Armstrong Atlantic State University baseball team overcame a 7-1 deficit and an NCAA Division II record by Missouri-St. Louis to claim a 10-8 victory on Saturday afternoon in Savannah Invitational action at Pirate Field.

The Pirates (7-2) won their sixth straight game with the come-from-behind victory, while Missouri-St. Louis falls to 1-1 in the early going.

The Tritons jumped on the Pirates and starter Scott Strickland early, scoring three runs in each of the first two innings. Kenny Bechaud's RBI double, plus an RBI single by Spencer Ammons and a bases-loaded walk to Drew Standefer put UMSL up, 3-0, after one, then a double, an error and a wild pitch plated two more runs in the second.

Armstrong responded with a solo home run by **Drew Walker** in the second inning, but the Tritons got it back in the top of the third on an RBI single by Andrew Keating.

The Pirates began their comeback in the fifth inning in a wild five-run frame. Josh Heath led off the inning with a double, then one out later, Mike Barnhill drove him home with a single to make it 7-2. A Michael Price double to center field and a fielding error on UMSL third baseman Ammons allowed another run to score, then Price scored on a wild pitch that did not travel more than six feet from home plate. John Roberts then drove a triple to center field and scored when the Triton's Adam Blum misplayed the ball, and Walker then followed with his second solo home run of the day to make the score 7-6.

Missouri-St. Louis scored off of an error in the sixth, then the Pirates plated four in the bottom of the seventh to grab their first lead of the game. Mike Barnhill's RBI single scored Clayton Miller to make it a one-run game, then an errant throw by shortstop Jeremy Butler on Alex Frederick's infield single allowed the tying run to score. A Roberts sacrifice fly put the Pirates up by one, then a bases-loaded single by Chris Zittrouer apparently scored two, but Price was out trying to score when he was ruled not to have tagged the plate, ending the inning with the Pirates now up by two, 10-8.

Meanwhile, Missouri-St. Louis continued to use small ball throughout the game, and when the leadoff runner reached base in the eighth inning, Kenny Bechaud's sacrifice hit gave the Tritons seven sacrifice hits in the game, setting a new NCAA Division II single game record. The previous record of six sacrifice hits in one game had been reached four times previously - twice by Armstrong, in 2003 against Francis Marion and again in 2009 against California (Pa.) in the Savannah Invitational.

Armstrong reliever Chandler Hall (2-0) held the Tritons in check over 3 1/3 hitless innings to pick up the victory, striking out one. UMSL reliever Derek Waggener (0-1) was saddled with the loss for the Tritons as he gave up four runs and three hits in 2/3 of an inning of work.

Walker led five Pirates who collected two hits in the game, while UMSL had three players with two hits apiece - Keating, Ammons and Bechaud.

Armstrong returns to action on Sunday, February 27, hosting Wayne State (Mich.) at 11:00 a.m. in Savannah Invitational action at Pirate Field.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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